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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

7 March 1983

Vietnamese Constructing Barrier in Kampuchea

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[redacted] that the Vietnamese have nearly completed construction of a defensive barrier along the Thai-Kampuchean border. We believe it is designed to prevent renewed non-Communist resistance activity near Nong Chan and to limit contact between the resistance and Kampuchea civilians. [redacted]

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Barrier and Ditch System

The 15-kilometer barrier is constructed of soil excavated from a parallel ditch a few meters west. It extends from Phumi Nimitt to just east of the recently destroyed resistance base at Nong Chan, and parallels the border at distances of from three to 10 kilometers. [redacted] the barrier is about four meters high, measures four to five meters at the base, and tapers to a width of about two meters at the top. [redacted]

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[redacted] bamboo spikes are being imbedded in the nearby ditch, which is likely to be filled with water most of the year. In addition, [redacted]

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[redacted] portions of the barrier will contain barbed wire obstacles and possibly fencing. The Vietnamese have cleared some areas west of the barrier, probably to afford a better field of vision. [redacted]

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Aimed at Non-Communist Resistance

The Vietnamese, along with thousands of Khmer civilian conscripts, began construction in February, apparently in response to a sharp increase in non-Communist resistance activity

This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] Office of East Asian Analysis and [redacted] Office of Imagery Analysis. Information available as of 7 March 1983 was used in its presentation. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to Chief, Southeast Asia Division [redacted]

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NGA Review Completed

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in the area. In December, the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front seized several Kampuchean villages, provoking a Vietnamese counterattack that forced Front forces to abandon their gains by mid-January. The Vietnamese then destroyed the Front's base at Nong Chan and began building the barrier. [redacted]

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The timing of the construction, the emplacement of spikes, and the clearing of terrain suggest that the barrier is intended to impede guerrilla operations mounted from the Nong Chan area, where Front forces have regrouped. The barrier will impede access to all of the villages that Front forces had seized earlier. [redacted]

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[redacted] the barrier is also intended to prevent Kampuchean civilians from fleeing to the Thai border. The barrier interdicts trails that have been used by thousands of Khmer seeking international relief supplies as well as those who engage in the extensive smuggling activities at the border. In restricting civilian traffic, the barrier will hinder resistance contacts with the Khmer populace from which the resistance must draw its recruits and its political support. [redacted]

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SUBJECT: Vietnamese Constructing Barrier in Kampuchea

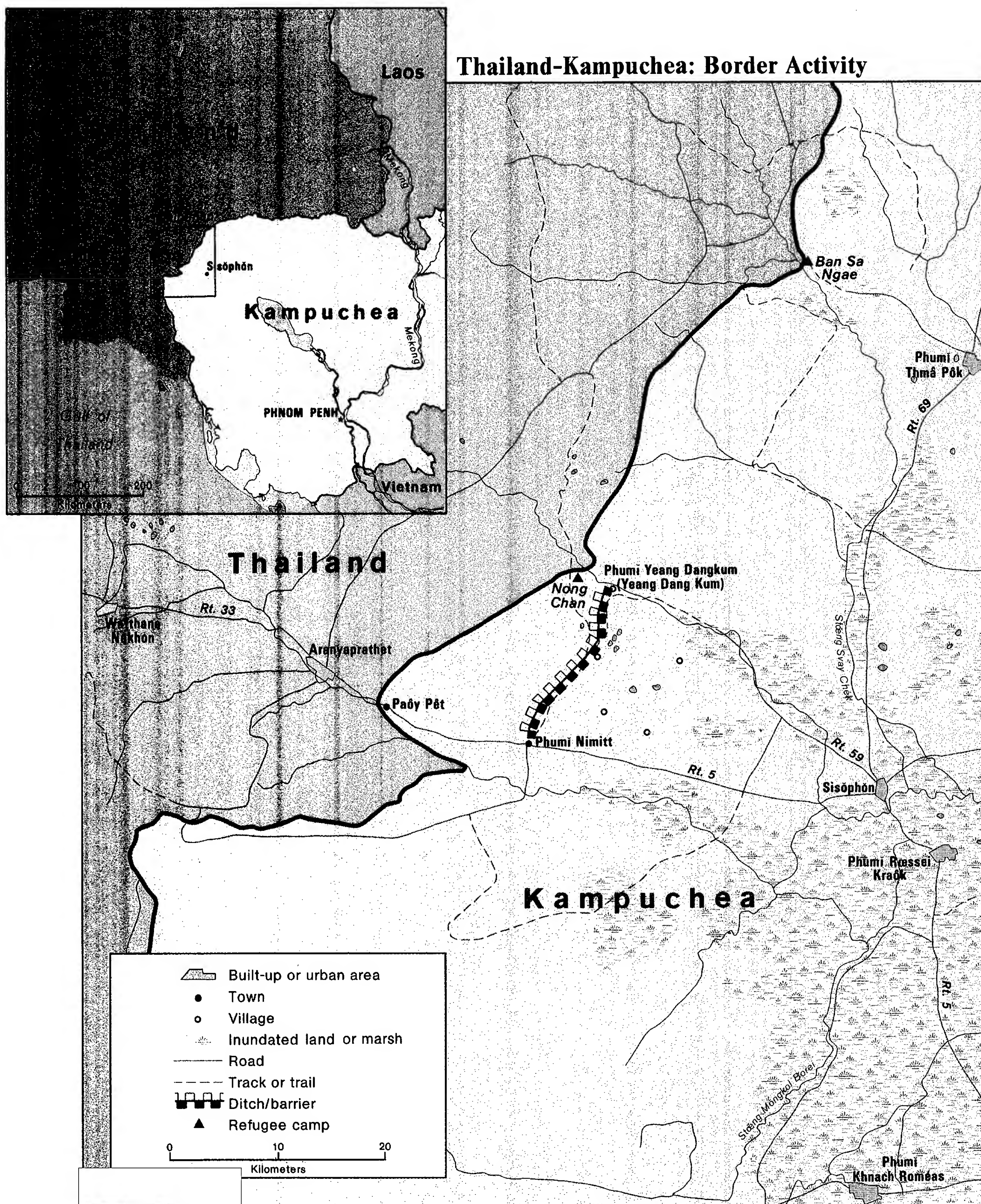
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Thailand-Kampuchea: Border Activity



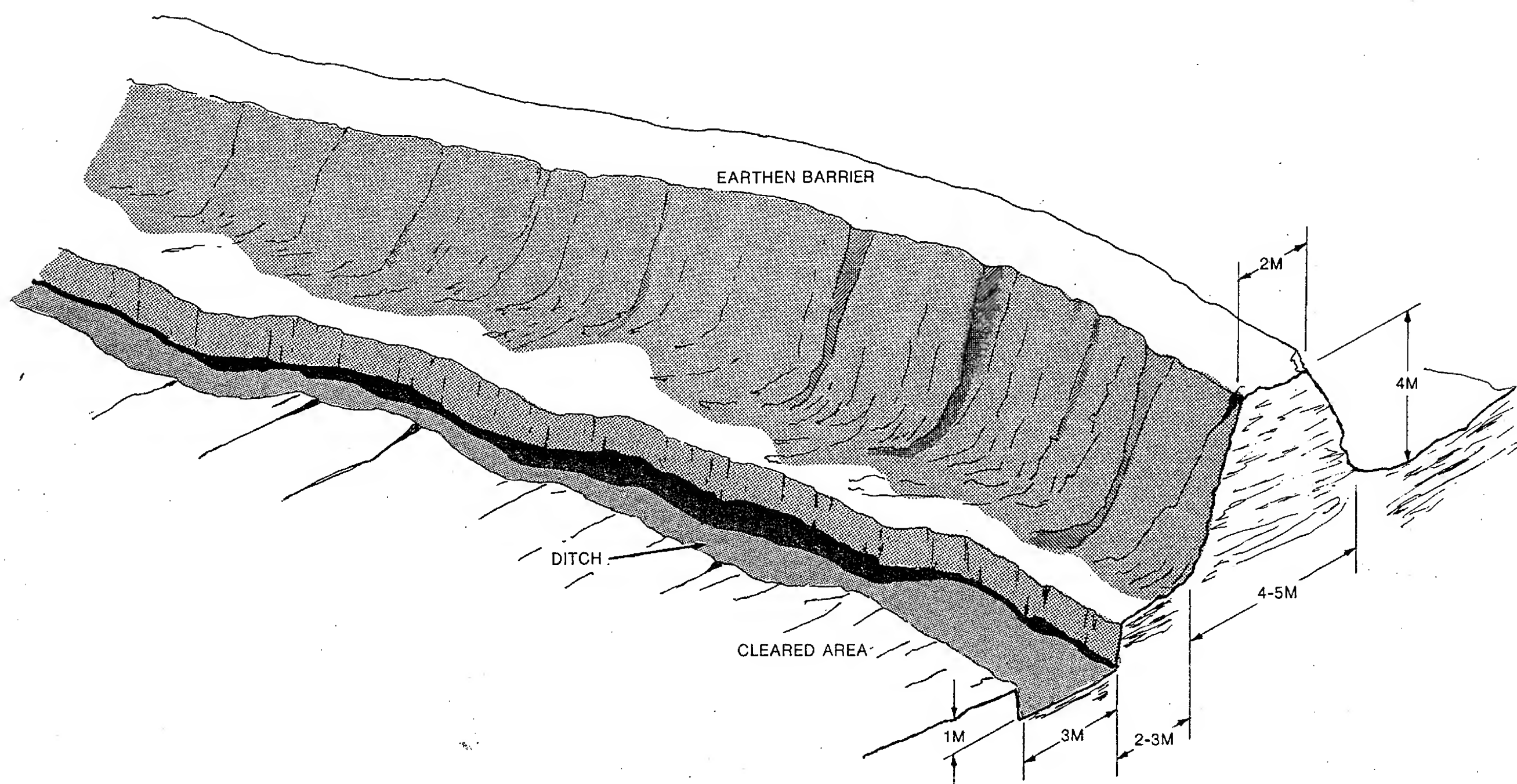
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Artist Concept of Vietnamese Defensive Barrier

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